

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DBLAKEMORE:FLW
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH
JUSTICE - PMICHEL (SUBSTANCE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131455

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: TONGSUN PARK: PROPOSED VISIT TO DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC AND RUMOR OF FRASER COMMITTEE SUBPOENA

REF: SEOUL 4336

1. THE KOREAN EMBASSY HAS IDENTIFIED HUNDLEY AS THE SOURCE OF REPORTS THAT THE FRASER COMMITTEE INTENDS TO SUBPOENA TONGSUN PARK. HUNDLEY SAYS THAT HE HAS INDEED BEEN INFORMED BY CHIEF FRASER COMMITTEE INVESTIGATOR HERSHMAN THAT HE HOLDS A SIGNED SUBPOENA FOR TONGSUN PARK. HUNDLEY HAS MENTIONED THIS TO THE KOREAN EMBASSY, AND THIS IS THE LIKELY SOURCE OF THE RUMOR. HERSHMAN HAS ALSO INFORMED HUNDLEY THAT AS FAR AS THE COMMITTEE STAFF IS CONCERNED, THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FRASER AND SPEAKER O'NEILL IN WHICH THE FORMER AGREED NOT TO SUBPOENA PARK APPLIED ONLY TO THE FIRST VISIT, AND HAS EXPIRED.

2. DESPITE THE FOREGOING, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO REASON TO
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BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANY INTENTION TO SERVE A SUBPOENA ON PARK AT PRESENT. IN THIS CONNECTION WE BELIEVE THAT THE ROKG'S WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO AN INFORMAL INTERVIEW OF PARK BY THE FRASER STAFF IN HUNDLEY'S OFFICE IS A KEY

DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE MADE CERTAIN THAT THE EMBASSY GETS THE MESSAGE OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO THE COMMITTEE

IMMEDIATELY.

3. WE HAVE AGAIN DISCUSSED WITH JUSTICE TONGSUN PARK'S DESIRE TO VISIT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND THE POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED. PARK AND HIS LAWYER APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT THERE IS SOME CHANCE THE ROKG WOULD ACQUIESCE IN SUCH A TRIP. WE HAVE NOT ENCOURAGED THIS BELIEF. WE HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE FIRST STEP IN SETTING ASIDE THE NO THIRD COUNTRY TRAVEL PROVISION OF OUR AGREEMENTS WITH THE ROKG WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE LATTER. YOU MAY INFORM PAK SANG YONG OF THE FOREGOING AND ASSURE HIM THAT WE WOULD NOT AGREE TO THIRD COUNTRY TRAVEL UNLESS THE ROKG TOOK THE INITIATIVE AND ASKED US TO AGREE TO SUCH TRAVEL. CHRISTOPHER

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